

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

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MAJOR GENERAL JAMES H. POLK, USA

James Hilliard Polk was born at Camp McGraw, Batangas, Philippine Islands on December 13, 1911, of Army parents. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1933 and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Cavalry. Prior to World War II, he served as a unit officer in two Cavalry Regiments, and attended the regular and advanced course at the Cavalry School. At the outbreak of World War II, General Polk was on duty as a Company Tactical Officer with the Corps of Cadets at West Point.

In 1943, General Polk attended the short general staff course at Fort Leavenworth and then joined the 106th Mechanized Cavalry Group at Fort Hood, Texas, serving as Squadron Commander and later as Regimental Executive Officer. After brief service in Texas and England, the 106th Cavalry Group joined the Normandy beachhead forces and participated in the hedgerow fighting, the St. Lo break out, and Third Army's drive across France.

In early September 1944, General Polk assumed command of the 3rd Cavalry Group, then in combat near Metz, France, and continued to command this mechanized reconnaissance regiment for the balance of the war. The 3rd Cavalry remained assigned continuously to the Twentieth Corps of Third Army and frequently spearheaded its advances into Central Europe. In these campaigns the regiment was cited frequently for bold and aggressive action and General Polk was decorated three times for gallantry, once by General Patton personally.

After brief occupation duty in Germany at the end of World War II, Polk returned to the United States and became Chief of Tactics at the Ground General School, Fort Riley, Kansas, and later attended the Armed Forces Staff College. In 1948, he was ordered to Tokyo, Japan, and served in the G-2 Section of the U.S. Far East Command for the next three years.

Early in the Korean War, General Polk became Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 of the Tenth Corps and participated in three campaigns. In August 1951, he returned to attend the National War College and was then assigned as an instructor at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Following this duty, he was made Chief of Staff of the 3rd Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky and participated in the gyroscope shipment of the division to Western Germany. In July 1956, Polk was promoted to Brigadier General and served as Assistant Division Commander for one year. Next followed a two year tour of duty as Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Land Forces Central Europe, a NATO headquarters at Fontainebleau, France under General Dr. Hans Speidel. In July 1959, General Polk returned to the U.S. and became the Director of the Policy Planning Staff in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

In June 1961, Polk was promoted to Major General and ordered back to Western Germany to take command of the 4th Armored Division. He will be accompanied by his wife, the former Josephine Leavell of El Paso, Texas.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Commanding General, 4th Armored Div., USAREUR	1961	
Director, Policy Planning Staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)	1959	1961
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, LANDCENT	1957	1959
Assistant Division Commander, 3d Armored Division, USAREUR	1956	1957
Chief of Staff, 3d Armored Division, Fort Knox, Kentucky	1955	1956
Instructor, ARWC, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.	1952	1955
Student Officer, National War College, Washington, D.C.	1951	1952
Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, X Corps, Korea	1951	1951
Assistant Executive Officer, G-2 Section, General Headquarters, Far East Command	1948	1950
Student Officer, AFSC, Norfolk, Virginia	1947	1948
Chief of Tactics, The Ground General School	1946	1947
Commanding Officer, 3rd Cavalry Group	1944	1946
Executive Officer, 106th Cavalry Group	1943	1944
Instructor Dept Tactics, USMA	1941	1943
Cavalry Unit Officer	1939	1941
Student, Cavalry School	1937	1939
Cavalry Unit Officer	1933	1937
Cadet, USMA	1929	1933

LIST OF CITATIONS AND DECORATIONS

Silver Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
 Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
 Bronze Star Medal
 Air Medal
 American Campaign Medal
 American Defense Service Medal
 World War II Victory Medal
 Occupation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster (Japan and Germany)
 Korean Service Medal
 Legion of Honor (France)
 Croix de Guerre with Palm (France)
 United Nations Service Medal (Korea)
 Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
 Department of Defense Badge

PERSONAL DATA

Date and Place of Birth - December 13, 1911, Camp McGraw, Batangas, Philippine Islands

Parents - Father: Col Harding Polk Mother: Mrs. Harding Polk
US Army (deceased) 1884 Columbia Road, N.W.

Washington, D. C.

Marriage - Date: November 7, 1936
Wife: Josephine Leavell Polk

Children - Mrs. Jonathan D. Schwartz
El Paso, Texas

James H. Polk, III
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Official Home Address: 509 Robinson Blvd.
El Paso, Texas

EDUCATION

U.S. Military Academy - 1933 - BS Degree
The Cavalry School - Regular Course - 1938
The Cavalry School - Advanced Course - 1939
Command & General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth - 1943
Armed Forces Staff College - Joint Operations - 1948
National War College - 1952

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PROMOTIONSPromotions

2nd Lt
1st Lt
Captain
Major
Lt Colonel
Captain
Colonel
Lt Colonel
Major
Lt Colonel
Colonel
Brigadier General
Major General

Temporary (AUS)Permanent (RA)

13 June 1933
13 June 1936
9 September 1940
1 February 1942
11 December 1942
13 June 1943
16 November 1944
11 December 1942
1 July 1948
28 July 1950
30 December 1950
31 July 1956
20 June 1961
(DR 1 August 1956)